

A Sense of Urgency

By Paul Hegerty
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In 2006 I assembled a collection of works on an environmental theme. These were exhibited at the ACU National Gallery, Banyo, in August and September. The theme was *A Sense of Urgency*, linking the environmental agenda with my experience in change management.

Groups, communities and organisations must have a sense of urgency to change effectively. Currently there are people all over the world trying to create this sense of urgency about global warming, environmental degradation and the destruction of biodiversity. Our current economic, social and consumer trends are harming the environment to such an extent that societies all around the world are now at risk. No economy, business or community can prosper if it has no capacity for clean water, food production, energy or disease control. These are lost when ecosystems collapse. Forget whether you like furry critters or tree-huggers. When they go, everything else follows.

The artworks in the *A Sense of Urgency* collection are part of my contribution to raising awareness. At the completion of the ACU exhibition the collection became available *pro bono* for groups or organisations to use in displays as a focus point or back drop for awareness raising events.

The process

Any community or organisation that would like to use the artworks can contact me via my website, www.optusnet.com.au/~pmhgalleries/, to check availability of the works and make arrangements.

The host community or organisation provides a venue and an event or some other access for people to view the works, perhaps listen to a guest speaker and discuss their feelings and ideas about the current environmental challenges. I may be able to make myself available if people want to talk about the artistic process or reasons behind the works. If the host organisation has trouble locating a suitable speaker I can use my networks to help find one. The works can be displayed for an event or an agreed period, depending on availability.

The exhibition

The collection currently contains ten works. All or some of these can be used for gallery or foyer displays. Exhibition notes are also available. Sample notes from the ACU exhibition can be found on my website. The notes present themes for each artwork and some of the ideas that influenced the creation of the works. The presenter at an event might also be able to provide notes.

The artistic elements

The works are didactic in nature showing elements of realism intertwined with surrealist or poster attributes. They are each driven by a particular theme and the quest to find a visual means to express it. I use a contemplative approach to painting, open to rational and non-rational influences. This produces works rich in potential for viewer responses as they unpack and express their own experiences of the environment and the issues of the day.

